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THE INTERNAL SLAVE-TRADE IN AFRICA.

It is well known that the internal slave-trade is the most potent of the evil influences which oppose the progress of civilisation in Africa.

It was so recognised in the **GENERAL ACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE OTHER POWERS FOR THE REPRESSION OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE, AND THE RESTRICTION OF THE IMPORTATION INTO, AND SALE IN, A CERTAIN DEFINED ZONE OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, OF FIRE-ARMS, AMMUNITION AND SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.**

This Act was ratified in the United States, January 19, 1892, and took effect on the 2d of April, 1892. It declares that the best means to extinguish the slave-trade and slavery itself are:

- (1) The organization of a civilized administration by Christian nations.
- (2) The establishment of a net-work of fortified stations and centres of civilization.
- (3) The development of lines of communication by roads, especially railroads, by steam navigation on lakes and rivers, and by telegraphic wires.
- (4) The organization of an armed police force, to intercept slave-caravans and ensure the safety of the roads and waterways.
- (5) The exclusion of rum and fire-arms from certain regions.
- (6) The encouragement of scientific exploration, of legitimate commerce, and of Christian missions without distinction of creed.

It provides for the establishment of bureaus in Europe and in Africa to watch over the execution of its clauses, for the granting of letters of freedom by competent authorities, for the repatriation or the settlement and education of liberated slaves.

Recognizing that mere liberation seldom improves the condition of the slave, it calls for the assistance of special societies organized for the purpose of liberating, settling and educating the victims of the slave-trade.

With this Act before him as a text, Mr. Heli Chatelain, who has devoted himself for years most unselfishly to the work of civilisation in Africa, shows in a recent pamphlet what has been done for the extinction of slavery by Germany, England and the Congo State, and by the anti-slavery societies, Catholic as well as Protestant, and how much also remains to be done.

Mr. Chatelain, as an American, now calls on the people of the United States to do their part in this great task of redemption. In his twelve years of unpaid service in the cause he has made himself thoroughly acquainted with the native mind and character, out of which, under instruction and guidance, must come the development of Africa.

The following plan of operation, which he has elaborated, has received the approval of many distinguished men, as inexpensive, simple and practical:

Plan of Work : (1) Obtain from England, Germany, France, Portugal or the Kongo State suitable concessions of land and the promise of liberated slaves—if possible, with a subsidy.

(2) Settle these ex-slaves on alternate lots, with the needful tools, seeds, clothing and food to enable them to raise a first crop.

(3) Teach them by example how to improve native house-building, farming and industries; introduce civilized trades and new cultures of saleable produce.

(4) Induce the settlers to work, by purchasing this saleable produce and giving them in exchange useful articles of trade; encouraging them also in thrift.

(5) Sell them the empty lots as fast as they have earned enough to pay for them, and procure them legal titles to their farms as soon as they realize the importance and responsibilities of proprietorship.

(6) Teach them reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and give practical instruction in non-sectarian Christian religion, as well as in civilized citizenship.

(7) Submit each colony to a code of rules designed to exclude the main causes of the African's miseries and of the ruler's difficulties, which causes are: (a) Witch-doctoring (practical poisoning), legal ordeals (from which thousands die year after year), and all heathen practices; (b) polygamy, with all its evil concomitants (cause of endless misery); (c) rum and hemp-smoking (two baneful, brutalizing agencies); (d) idleness (largely due to slavery); (e) immoral white men.

Staff of Workers.—(1) A superintendent (if possible a medical man); (2) a farmer and mechanic; (3) a teacher (one or two of these married); (4) native Christians or colored Americans as assistants.

Probable Cost.—Foundation and first year of one settlement for about 200 men and women \$10,000; second year \$2,000; within a few years final self-support.

It is hoped that each settlement will become self-propagating, the income from the sale of empty lots enabling the Society to start another colony.

Any person or company giving \$5,000 would have the naming of a settlement and a voice in its management.

Organization (special features).—NAME : “Philafican Liberators’ League.” MEMBERSHIP: Every person contributing \$1 annually. LOCAL BRANCHES: to be established in principal cities. OFFICERS: (1) An Executive Committee, composed of prominent men and women, who take a practical interest in the League and are able to meet at stated times; (2) A General Council composed of delegates of Local Branches; (3) An International Council, composed of great names connected with African work; its functions being honorary and advisory; (4) And, of course, the usual staff of presidents, secretaries, trustees, etc.

General Policy.—The Philafican League will simply take the slaves whom the governments have liberated, and transform them, in cordial understanding with said governments, into hard-working, civilized, law-abiding Christian citizens of the countries in which they reside.

Mr. Chatelain may be addressed at 511, United Charities Building, Fourth Avenue and 22d Street.